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Title:

LAY-DOWN STYLE HUNTING BLIND

## **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Success in the sport of hunting is usually increased by the use of a hunting blind to help shield the hunter from view of the prey. Hunting blinds may be permanent or portable. Permanent hunting blinds typically include a rigid-wall, box-like structure mountable on legs for elevating the hunter above the ground and for protecting the hunter within the box from view of the prey. Ground-level hunting blinds are utilized for the hunter to sit, crouch, or stand behind or in. Pit blinds are also used. Portable hunting blinds are sometimes advantageous as they may be easily carried by a single hunter and set up at various locations throughout the day.

Moreover, a portable hunting blind may be moved easily to change the position of the hunting blind with respect to the direction of view of the hunter.

Layout or laydown hunting blinds allow the hunter to sit or recline on the ground inconspicuously in a field while a large portion of his body is covered by the blind. Typically, the hunter has a loaded weapon within the blind, and the blind includes some sort of quickly releasable cover or door that allows the hunter to sit up and aim the weapon at prey very rapidly.

In the past, layout hunting blinds have required some sort of metal framework to keep the blind off the hunter's body while the hunter is reclining within the blind. Such frameworks have added weight and bulk to the blind, reducing its portability.

Furthermore, earlier layout hunting blinds have been uncomfortable with poor head support and have not included an air-inflatable headrest. In addition, earlier layout blinds have been uncomfortable with poor head support and with rigid frames generally required flat ground for use.

There is a need for a portable, layout hunting blind that minimizes the supporting framework and provides an air-inflatable head and shoulder rest for the hunter. The blind should not have a rigid frame, and should therefore be usable whether or not the ground upon which it will rest is flat.

## **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

A frameless, portable, layout hunting blind for use by a sitting or reclining hunter has a frameless floor, an enclosed foot and leg sack for the hunter's legs, a

movable flap to cover the hunter's upper body, a collapsible foot sack support to keep the foot sack clear of the hunter's legs, and an air-inflatable head and shoulder rest.

5 A principle object and advantage of the present invention is that there is no frame supporting the floor side walls and top of the blind. There are thus no metal bars to bend, break, or create discomfort.

Another principle object and advantage of the present invention is that because it is frameless and flexible, it can be used on flat or rough ground and easily rolls up rather than folds or otherwise breaks down.

10 Another principle object and advantage of the present invention is that it includes an air-inflatable head and shoulder rest that is adjustable and thereby comfortable, which also works as support for sides.

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the present invention in a deployed position with some internal structure shown in phantom.

15 FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the present invention in a rolled-up configuration.

FIG. 3 is similar to Fig. 2, but shows a hunter enclosed in the hunting blind.

FIG. 4 is similar to Fig. 3, but shows the hunter sitting in the hunting blind in a ready to shoot position.

20 FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the present invention showing internal structure.

FIG. 6 is a cross-section of the present invention showing internal structure.

### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

25 The frameless, portable, layout hunting blind of the present invention is generally shown in the Figures as reference numeral 10.

The hunting blind 10 further comprises a frameless floor 12; an enclosed foot sack 14 having an opening 16 adapted to receive the hunter's legs; a movable flap 18 attached to the floor 12 and adapted to cover the hunter's body; a collapsible foot sack support 20 attached to the foot sack opening 16 and adapted to keep the foot sack opening 16 clear of the hunter's legs; and air-inflatable head and/or shoulder rest 22.

In one embodiment, the movable flap 18 further comprises two flaps 18a and 18b.

In one embodiment, the collapsible foot sack support 20 further comprises a substantially horizontal first bar 20a attached to the foot sack opening 16, a vertical second bar 20b attached to the substantially horizontal first bar 20a, and a substantially horizontal foot 20c attached to the vertical second bar 20b and engaging the floor 12.

In one embodiment, the collapsible foot sack support 20 pivots about the foot sack opening 16 to a position that supports the foot sack opening 16 clear of the hunter's legs to a position (shown in phantom in Fig. 5) in which the foot sack opening 16 may be collapsed for storage and transport of the hunting blind 10.

In one embodiment, the first bar 20a, second bar 20b, and foot 20c are a single piece.

In one embodiment, the air-inflatable head rest 22 is removably attached to the floor 12, as for example by hook and loop material 23. This allows the head rest 22 to be completely removed from the blind if desired, as for example, for cleaning.

In one embodiment, the hunting blind 10 further comprises a cushion 24 positionable on the floor 12. In one embodiment, the cushion 24 is removable from the hunting blind 10.

The hunting blind 10 may optionally have side supports 26 that keep the sides 27 of the floor 12 upright around the hunter's body.

In use, the hunter enters the layout blind by sliding his legs into the foot sack opening 16, lying down, and covering his body with the flap 18, as shown in Fig. 3.

When the hunter desires to shoot prey, he raises the flap 18, sits up, and lifts his firearm to a shooting position, as shown in Fig. 4.

When the hunter desires to store or transport the hunting blind, the hunting blind 10 can be conveniently rolled up and tied as shown in Fig. 2.

- 5           The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the spirit or essential attributes thereof, and it is therefore desired that the present embodiment be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, reference being made to the appended claims rather than to the foregoing description to indicate the scope of the invention.